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1980 ABORTION

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH PLANNTNG AND RESOURCEES DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH DATA SERVICES
VS20 - 8206

ABORTION DATA INDEX

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INTRODUCTION

The Department collects data on induced abortions performed in all licensed abortion facilities in the State.

Abortions performed in hospitals and licensed outpatient abortion facilities must be reported to the Department on a Monthly Abortion/Induced Pregnancy Termination Report within 10 days after the close of the month the procedure was performed. Forms are provided by the Department and are processed monthly. A yearly summary report is then compiled. The form is designed to provide data which can serve as a basic resource for health professional decisions relating to abortions, in planning abortion services and in providing family planning services. Data collected include basic information about age, marital status, municipality of residence, race, prior number of pregnancies and prior live births. Clinical information is limited to gestation period at termination and method of termination. Patients' names are never reported and therefore no record is personally identifiable.

INDUCED ABORTIONS REPORTED IN NEW JERSEY, 1980 is the second publication to contain data on induced abortions which are performed in licensed health care facilities in the State. This report includes a narrative summary which presents related clinical information and demographic characteristics of the women represented in the 1980 data collection. Tables and charts are included to illustrate these summary data.

The statistics presented in this report are for induced abortions occurring only in licensed New Jersey health care facilities. Data can be obtained for residents obtaining abortions in other states from the National Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia.

OVERVIEW

Selected Characteristics

In 1980, demographic information on women who obtained an induced abortion in New Jersey reveals a predominance of women who were in-state residents (97.8%), unmarried (68.8%), less than 25 years of age (60.8%), Caucasian (60.4%) and childless (54.4%).

The majority (89.8%) of abortions were performed during the first trimester of pregnancy by means of sharp or suction curettage procedures (95.6%). A licensed out-patient abortion clinic, as in 1979, was the primary type of facility used and accounted for more than two-thirds (67.4%) of all 1980 abortions performed.

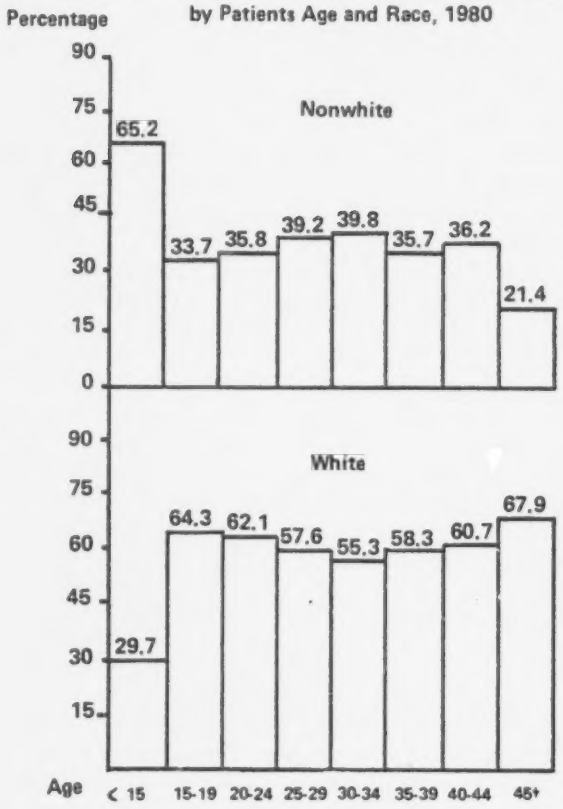
Age

Women between the ages of 20 to 24 years represented the largest group (34.2%) of all reported induced abortions for 1980. Following in frequency were 15 to 19 year olds (25.6%) and women 25 to 29 years of age (19.3%). The "under 15" and "over 44" age cohorts accounted for just over 1.0% of the 30,239 reported pregnancy terminations.

Conversely, the induced abortion ratios (number of recorded induced abortions per 1,000 recorded live births) for both extremes of the age spectrum were notably higher than the ratios for the middle ranges. There were 1,010 abortions per 1,000 live births for women in the "under 15" age category and 1,931 induced abortions for women over the age of 44. The 1980 ratio for women in the "under 15" cohort increased by 318 over the figure for 1979.

The two lowest abortion to live birth ratios were associated with the 25 to 29 age group (188) and the 30 to 34 year olds (189). The 1980 New Jersey abortion ratio for all women was 319 induced abortions per 1,000 live births; a difference of 23.0% over the ratio for 1979 (262 abortions to 1,000 live births) and resulting in one abortion reported for every 3.1 live births.

Induced Abortions Recorded in New Jersey by Patients Age and Race, 1980



Race

The 1980 reported induced abortion data indicated a predominance (60.4%) of women who gave their race as white, and 36.6% listed their race as nonwhite. Comparative data for the 1979 and 1980 reporting cycles show the percentages of abortions performed on white and non-white females has remained nearly the same. In 1979 close to two thirds (64.4%) of the women reported their race as white, and 35.0% indicated a non-white race.

However, the ratio of induced abortions to live births increased nearly twice as much for nonwhite females as for white females. For nonwhite women, the ratio increased from 447 in 1979 to 568 during 1980. The same ratio for white females rose from 218 in 1979 to 250 induced abortions per 1000 live births in 1980.

Marital Status

Unmarried women represented 68.8% of the total number of females who received abortions in 1980.

The two categories which accounted for slightly more than one-half (50.5%) of all reported abortions in 1980 were unmarried women between the ages of 15 and 19 years (24.1%), and 20 to 24 years of age (26.4%).

The disparity between data for married and unmarried women was most obvious under the age of 25 years. Between the ages of 15 and 24 years of age nearly six times more women receiving abortions were unmarried (50.5%) then married (8.8%).

Raw numbers as well as ratios for married women who received abortions exceed those for unmarried women after the age of 29. However, married women 30 years of age or more represent slightly more than one-tenth of the total number of recorded abortions for 1980.

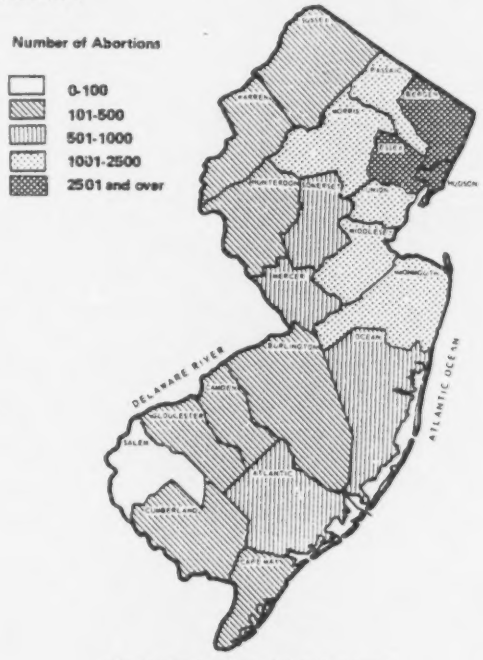
Prior Number of Live Births

Abortion data collected during 1980 shows the majority (54.4%) of women indicated they had never given birth to a child at the time of the recorded pregnancy termination. Fewer then one-fifth (18.7%) of the clients said they had one prior live birth, and 15.6% answered two previous live births. Just under one in ten (9.0%) women responded to this query with live births which numbered three or more.

The lowest induced abortions per 1,000 live births ratio (186) was computed for women who had one prior live birth. Ratios were higher for women with no prior live births and more then one prior live birth. The ratios were close and indicate that women in these categories were equally as likely to choose pregnancy termination.

Women with no prior live births had the highest ratio of 399 followed by two births (338), three live births (353) and four live births (334). While the induced abortion ratios for 1979 were lower, the spreads were approximately the same. Women in 1979 who reported one prior live birth accounted for 147 induced abortions. The highest induced abortion ratio was for women with no prior live births (333) followed by ratios of 264, 307 and 273 induced abortions per 1,000 live births recorded for women with two, three, and four prior live births, respectively.

Comparative data on prior live births to prior abortions points to the largest percentage of women as those who had never given birth before nor had a previous abortion (37.1%). Next in descending order were women who reported no prior live births and one previous abortion (13.3%); one live birth and no prior abortion (10.3%); and 8.5% of the women answered two live births and no abortion prior to the recorded pregnancy termination.



Induced Abortions Recorded in New Jersey by County of Residence 1980

Place of Residence

The majority (97.8%) of women who obtained an abortion in New Jersey were in-state residents. Of the twenty-one counties Essex County was listed most frequently as place of residence (21.4%) and ranked first in population size statewide. The smallest percent of women who received an abortion listed Salem (.1%) as their place of residence. Salem also ranked 21st in size according to 1980 population data.

The Northern New Jersey counties of Essex (21.4%), Hudson (16.3%) and Bergen (12.4%), as in 1979, ranked first, second and third as place of residence on the 1980 abortion reports. The 1980 New Jersey census indicated all three counties ranked among the top 4 in population size statewide.

For 1980, women originated from 26 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign countries. Of the out-of-state residents, the most frequently reported were those women from New York and Pennsylvania, the two major border states to New Jersey. Residents of New York accounted for 49.3% (296) of all nonresident abortions while Pennsylvania residents accounted for 38.7% (232).

Type of Procedures

The greatest number (95.6%) of all reported induced abortions were completed by the methods of sharp or suction curettage. Additionally, these two procedures accounted for 98.2% of all reported first trimester abortions and 95.6% of the procedures completed during the 13th to 15th week of pregnancy.

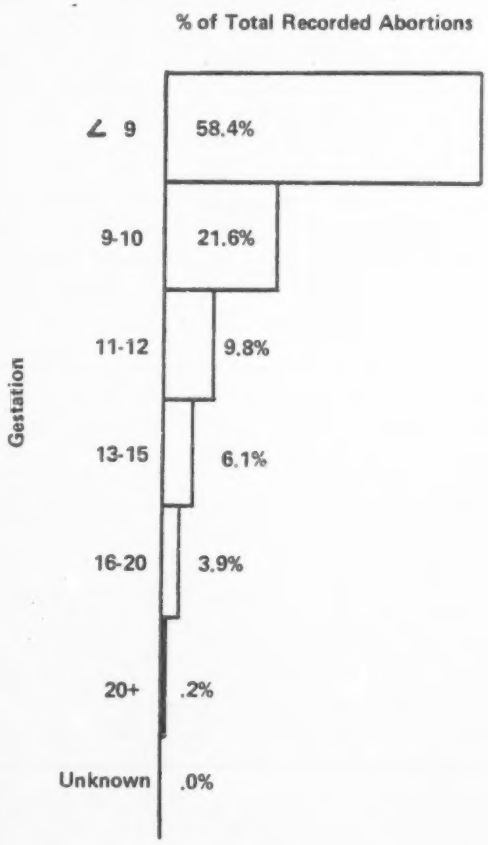
Saline instillations represented 2.6% of all reported induced abortion procedures. The 1980 data indicated this method as utilized most frequently (75.0%) during pregnancy terminations beyond 20 weeks of gestation. The drug Prostaglandin was administered in 19.4% of the late second trimester abortions (those abortions performed after the twentieth week).

Ratios were similar for saline instillations (50.7%) and sharp/suction currettage (42.4%) procedures performed to induce pregnancy terminations during the 16 to 20th week of gestation.

Weeks of Gestation

Of the 30,239 reported induced abortions for 1980, nearly nine out of ten (89.8%) procedures were completed during the first trimester of pregnancy. The number of abortions performed during the 13th to 20th week of gestation increased from 8.2% in 1979 to 9.9% for 1980. Seventy-two women (.2%) underwent a late second trimester abortion (over 20 weeks).

More than one-third (34.3%) of all first trimester abortions were performed on women between the ages of 20 to 24 years of age. Percentages were approximately the same for 15 to 19 year olds (23.9%) and women 25 to 29 years of age (20.1%). Women who terminated a pregnancy in the 13th to 20th gestation week were primarily 15 to 19 year olds (40.5%), while one-third (33.2%) of this group were women 20 to 24 years of age. Half (51.4%) of the women estimated to be more than 20 weeks pregnant at the time of the reported abortion were in the 15 to 19 age category and one-quarter (23.6%) were ages 20 to 24 years. There were no (.0%) women over the age of 39 represented in this gestation classification.



Induced Abortions Recorded in New Jersey by Gestation, 1980

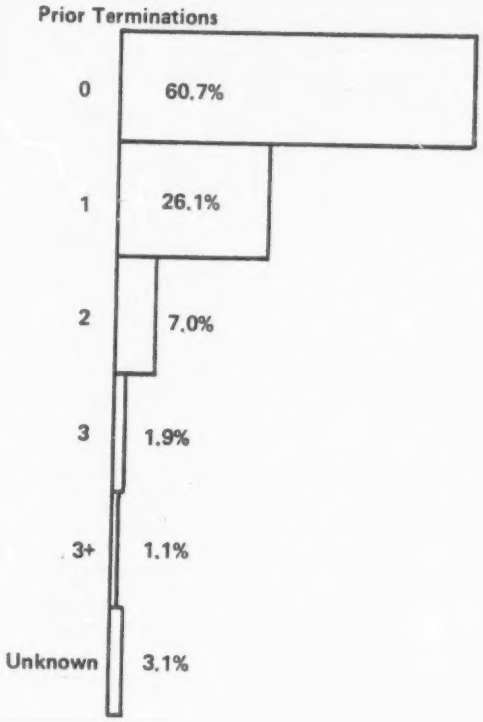
Type of Facility

Data on induced abortions for the year 1980 were collected from hospitals and licensed outpatient abortion facilities. The percentage of abortions performed in hospitals during 1980 increased 4.1% over 1979 (28.6%). Outpatient facilities accounted for slightly more than two-thirds (67.4%) of the 1980 reported induced abortions. Licensed outpatient facilities were listed as the primary setting for abortion procedures completed during the 13th to 15th week of gestation (93.6%) and during the first trimester of pregnancy (67.0%). All (100.0%) abortions performed after 20 gestational weeks and 61.5% of those completed during the 16th to 20th week of pregnancy were reported by hospitals. Of all single women reported by hospitals and outpatient facilities to have had an abortion during 1980, nearly three-quarters (73.0%) went to a clinic for termination procedures. Married women were more evenly distributed as to the type of facility utilized for an abortion procedure. Slightly more than one-half (56.9%) of the married women chose an outpatient clinic, and 43.1% were reported by hospitals.

Number of Previous Abortions

Information submitted indicates most (60.7%) women had never had a previous abortion. Approximately one-fourth (26.1%) of the women stated they had undergone one prior abortion, and in one out of ten cases (10.0%) two or more prior abortions were indicated. These numbers correspond closely to the data for 1979: 62.9%, 25.6% and 9.1%, respectively.

Induced Abortions Recorded in New Jersey by Prior Number of Terminiations, 1980



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1980

CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN RECEIVING INDUCED ABORTIONS IN NEW JERSEY — TABLE 1

	ABORTIONS	PERCENT	RATIO*
RESIDENCE			
NEW JERSEY	29578	97.81	319
OUT-OF-STATE	606	2.00	470
UNKNOWN	55	0.18	0
AGE			
< 15	293	0.97	1010
15-19	7751	25.63	674
20-24	10328	34.15	385
25-29	5846	19.33	188
30-34	3543	11.72	189
35-39	1756	5.81	370
40-44	605	2.00	887
> 44	56	0.19	1931
UNKNOWN	61	0.20	10166
RACE			
WHITE	18249	60.35	250
BLACK	7929	26.22	420
OTHER	3144	10.40	1680
UNKNOWN	917	3.03	5151
MARITAL STATUS			
MARRIED	9112	30.13	124
UNMARRIED	20797	68.78	1028
UNKNOWN	330	1.09	9428
NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS			
NONE	16457	54.42	399
ONE	5651	18.69	186
TWO	4711	15.58	338
THREE	1764	5.83	353
FOUR	591	1.95	334
> FOUR	376	1.24	290
UNKNOWN	689	2.28	6097
TOTAL	30239	100.00	322

*PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

1980

CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN RECEIVING INDUCED ABORTIONS IN NEW JERSEY — TABLE 1A

	ABORTIONS	PERCENT
TYPE OF PROCEDURE		
SHARP CURETTAGE	15380	50.86
SUCTION CURETTAGE (D&C)	13535	44.76
HYSTERECTOMY	3	0.01
HYSTEROTOMY	5	0.02
SALINE INSTILLATION	771	2.55
PROSTAGLANDIN INSTILLATION	107	0.35
OTHER	47	0.16
UNKNOWN	391	1.29
WEEKS OF GESTATION		
< 9	17662	58.41
9-10	6530	21.59
11-12	2970	9.82
13-15	1831	6.06
16-20	1174	3.88
> 20	72	0.24
UNKNOWN	0	0.0
TYPE OF FACILITY		
HOSPITALS	9872	32.65
CLINICS	20367	67.35
NUMBER OF PREVIOUS ABORTIONS		
NONE	18368	60.74
ONE	7893	26.10
TWO	2134	7.06
THREE	571	1.89
> THREE	323	1.07
UNKNOWN	950	3.14
TOTAL	30239	100.00

1980

INDUCED ABORTIONS RECORDED IN NEW JERSEY BY COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, RACE, AND AGE TABLE 2

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	TOTAL	RACE				AGE								
		WHITE	BLACK	OTHER	UNKNOWN	<15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45	UNKNOWN
ATLANTIC	695	658	199	32	6	10	278	328	161	76	27	12	1	2
BERGEN	3738	3126	371	227	14	22	1022	1290	658	405	231	99	6	1
BURLINGTON	365	240	47	9	69	2	81	90	83	42	29	15	3	14
CAMDEN	525	255	51	14	5	4	70	64	107	39	13	5	1	2
CAPE MAY	409	366	30	9	2	4	142	154	57	35	11	5	0	1
CUMBERLAND	314	227	66	20	1	3	122	107	42	28	7	5	0	0
ESSEX	6462	2243	3412	620	187	91	1604	2296	1304	728	317	110	2	10
GLOUCESTER	151	126	21	3	1	1	46	53	20	22	6	1	2	0
HUDSON	4915	2389	1179	1296	51	38	1114	1595	1041	668	310	130	10	9
HUNTERDON	136	126	3	1	4	0	45	42	20	20	9	0	0	0
MERCER	716	285	297	11	123	15	135	208	175	106	62	11	4	0
MIDDLESEX	1577	1151	243	126	57	9	330	550	289	214	136	42	3	4
MONMOUTH	1663	1225	371	45	22	18	602	559	239	126	87	26	4	2
MORRIS	1345	1166	79	53	47	7	343	418	269	186	87	25	7	1
OCEAN	620	559	46	8	7	5	195	226	93	61	34	6	0	0
PASSAIC	2497	1336	716	433	12	29	651	884	488	263	137	38	5	2
SALEM	20	15	3	1	1	0	5	8	2	3	1	0	0	1
SOMERSET	676	542	67	30	39	7	173	219	147	73	47	11	1	0
SUSSEX	283	275	2	2	4	2	76	85	50	49	17	3	1	0
UNION	2307	1226	670	168	241	23	530	817	433	303	140	50	5	6
WARREN	162	154	4	4	0	0	45	58	26	23	8	2	0	0
OUT-OF-STATE	600	507	49	29	15	2	129	232	131	59	36	9	1	1
FOREIGN	6	5	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
UNKNOWN	55	41	2	3	9	1	12	17	9	7	4	0	0	5
TOTAL	30239	18249	7529	3144	917	293	7751	10328	5846	3543	1756	605	56	61

1980

INDUCED ABORTIONS RECORDED IN NEW JERSEY AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE, RACE, MARITAL STATUS, GESTATION AND TYPE OF FACILITY

TABLE 3

	TOTAL	PERCENT	HOSPITAL NUMBER	HOSPITAL PERCENT	CLINIC NUMBER	CLINIC PERCENT
AGE						
< 15	293	0.97	142	1.44	151	0.74
15-19	7751	25.63	1740	17.63	6011	29.51
20-24	10328	34.15	2842	28.79	7486	36.76
25-29	5846	19.33	2302	23.32	3544	17.40
30-34	3543	11.72	1580	16.00	1963	9.64
35-39	1756	5.81	894	9.06	862	4.23
40-44	605	2.00	291	2.95	314	1.54
> 44	56	0.19	32	0.32	24	0.12
UNKNOWN	61	0.20	49	0.50	12	0.06
RACE						
WHITE	18249	60.35	4367	44.24	13882	68.16
BLACK	7929	26.22	3618	36.65	4311	21.17
OTHER	3144	10.40	1002	10.15	2142	10.52
UNKNOWN	917	3.03	885	8.96	32	0.16
MARITAL STATUS						
MARRIED	9112	30.13	3926	39.77	5186	25.46
UNMARRIED	20797	68.76	5625	56.98	15172	74.49
UNKNOWN	330	1.09	321	3.25	9	0.04
GESTATION						
< 9	17662	58.41	6297	63.79	11365	55.80
9-10	6530	21.59	1594	16.15	4936	24.24
11-12	2970	9.82	1069	10.83	1901	9.33
13-15	1831	6.06	118	1.20	1713	8.41
16-20	1174	3.88	722	7.31	452	2.22
> 20	72	0.24	72	0.73	0	0.0
UNKNOWN	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	30239	100.00	9872	100.00	20367	100.00

1980

INDUCED ABORTIONS RECORDED IN NEW JERSEY BY AGE, RACE, PRIMARY PROCEDURE, AND LENGTH OF GESTATION

TABLE 4

	TOTAL	WEEK OF GESTATION ≤ 9	9-10	11-12	13-15	16-20	≥ 20	UNKNOWN
AGE								
< 15	293	108	63	47	29	40	6	0
15-19	7751	3655	1858	983	748	470	37	0
20-24	10328	6008	2309	997	610	387	17	0
25-29	5846	3841	1126	495	223	154	7	0
30-34	3543	2388	681	264	141	66	1	0
35-39	1756	1173	352	130	58	39	4	0
40-44	605	397	129	45	20	14	0	0
> 44	56	41	10	2	2	1	0	0
UNKNOWN	61	51	2	7	0	1	0	0
RACE								
WHITE	18249	11151	3917	1552	1161	453	15	0
BLACK	7929	3962	1793	1090	560	484	40	0
OTHER	3144	2079	662	248	93	57	5	0
UNKNOWN	917	470	153	80	17	180	12	0
PRIMARY PROCEDURE								
SHARP CURETTAGE	15380	8028	3835	1586	1465	464	2	0
SUCTION CURETTAGE	13535	9270	2663	1283	285	34	0	0
HYSTERECTOMY	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
HYSTERCTOMY	5	0	0	0	1	4	0	0
SALINE INSTILLATI	771	6	1	72	43	595	54	0
PROSTAGLANDIN INS	107	21	0	1	8	63	14	0
OTHER	47	2	0	3	27	13	2	0
UNKNOWN	391	333	30	25	2	1	0	0
TOTAL	30239	17662	6530	2970	1831	1174	72	0

1980

INDUCED ABORTIONS RECORDED IN NEW JERSEY AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY RACE, MARITAL STATUS, AND AGE

TABLE 5

		TOTAL	< 15 NO. %	15-19 NO. %	20-24 NO. %	25-29 NO. %	30-34 NO. %	35-39 NO. %	40-44 NO. %	> 44 NO. %	UNKNOWN NO. %
RACE											
	WHITE	18249	87 0.29	4980 16.47	6417 21.22	3369 11.14	1959 6.48	1023 3.38	367 1.21	38 0.13	9 0.03
	BLACK	7925	176 0.58	2136 7.06	2692 8.90	1550 5.13	898 2.97	338 1.12	121 0.40	8 0.03	10 0.03
	OTHER	3144	15 0.05	474 1.57	1008 3.33	744 2.46	511 1.69	288 0.95	98 0.32	4 0.01	2 0.01
	UNKNOWN	917	15 0.05	161 0.53	211 0.70	183 0.61	175 0.58	107 0.35	19 0.06	4 0.01	40 0.13
MARITAL STATUS											
	MARRIED	9112	0 0.0	421 1.39	2236 7.39	2613 8.64	2141 7.08	1155 3.95	457 1.51	43 0.14	6 0.02
	UNMARRIED	20797	290 0.96	7282 24.08	7998 26.45	3163 10.46	1361 4.50	532 1.76	144 0.48	13 0.04	14 0.05
	UNKNOWN	330	3 0.01	48 0.16	94 0.31	70 0.23	41 0.14	29 0.10	4 0.01	0 0.0	41 0.14
TOTAL		30239	293 0.97	7751 25.63	10328 34.15	5846 19.33	3543 11.72	1756 5.81	605 2.00	56 0.19	61 0.20

DEFINITIONS

ABORTION - premature expulsion or removal from the uterus of the products of conception (the embryo or nonviable fetus).

FIRST TRIMESTER - first twelve weeks of pregnancy, as determined by the history given by the patient considered in conjunction with the physician's estimation of length of pregnancy by clinical examination of the size of the uterus (NJAC 8:40-4.1).

SECOND AND THIRD TRIMESTERS - pregnancy of 13 or more weeks as determined by the history given by the patient, the physician's findings or clinical examination of the size of the uterus before the abortion, and/or the size of the fetus as examined after the abortion (NJAC 8:40-4.1).

HOSPITAL - health care facility licensed as a hospital in accordance with the statutes of New Jersey.

OUTPATIENT ABORTION FACILITY - licensed health care facility other than a hospital in which abortion procedures are performed.

SHARP CURETTAGE - dilation of cervix and removal of the products of conception by a semi-sharp spoon-shaped instrument.

SUCTION CURETTAGE - dilation of cervix and removal of the products of conception by a vacuum method.

HYSTERECTOMY - excision of the uterus.

HYSTEROTOMY - incision of the uterus to remove the fetus before viability.

SALINE INSTILLATION - second-trimester method of induced abortion usually performed at or after 16 weeks of pregnancy by instilling a concentrated salt solution into the amniotic sac by a needle inserted through the abdominal wall.

PROSTAGLANDIN - a class of drugs used to induce a second-trimester abortion; usually injected into the uterine cavity by a needle inserted through the abdominal wall or introduced as a vaginal suppository.

APPENDIX

On August 5, 1974 the Emergency Interim Regulations for Abortion Facilities Receiving Temporary Licensure became effective. As set forth in Title 8, Chapter 40, subchapters 4 and 5, licensed abortion facilities (8:40-4.3(a)(b)) and hospitals (8:40-5.1(a)(b)) were required to forward abortion reports to the New Jersey Department of Health.

The Department, in cooperation with the State Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, and the Medical Society of New Jersey adopted the following guidelines (applicable to 1980 abortion data) which were made necessary by the United States Supreme Court's decision regarding abortion:

1. Only persons licensed as physicians are permitted to perform abortions.

2. First trimester abortions (on or before the 12th week of pregnancy) may be performed only by qualified physicians in their private offices (if the patients medical condition permits) or in licensed health care facilities (i.e., hospitals or out-patient abortion clinics).

3. Beyond the first 12 weeks and within a period of gestation not exceeding 16 menstrual weeks and/or 14 gestational weeks (size as determined by a physician) termination of pregnancy using the dilation and evacuation procedure can be performed either in a licensed hospital or out-patient abortion clinic; if any other method of abortion is utilized to terminate a pregnancy during tnis time it must be performed in a licensed hospital on an inpatient basis.

4. Termination of a pregnancy after the 16th menstrual or 14th gestational week will only be performed in a licensed hospital on an inpatient basis.

5. Third trimester abortions are allowed only to preserve the life or health of the mother, or where it has been determined late in pregnancy that there is a nonviable or deformed fetus incapable of extrauterine survival.